

Listing of claims:

The following is a complete listing of all claims in the application,
with an indication of the status of each:
1-24 (Canceled).

- 1 25 (New). A vessel agitator, comprising:
 - 2 a plurality of vessel holders, each of said plurality of vessel holders
 - 3 constructed and arranged for removably holding a vessel:
 - 4 a vessel conveyor that moves said plurality of vessel holders along a
 - 5 path having at least one substantially linear section; and
 - 6 a vessel contact agitator constructed and arranged such that when a
 - 7 vessel is held by at least one of said plurality of vessel holders, and is
 - 8 conveyed by said vessel conveyor along said path, said vessel contact agitator
 - 9 contacts said vessel at a plurality of contact locations along said path in a
 - 10 manner that displaces said vessel at each contact location in a direction
 - 11 perpendicular to the direction of the path at that contact location.

- 1 26 (New). The vessel agitator of claim 25 wherein the vessel contact agitator
 - 2 includes a plurality of projections, each located at a corresponding one of said
 - 3 contact locations, and a includes a plurality of troughs, each located at a
 - 4 corresponding one of said contact locations, said projections and troughs
 - 5 being constructed and arranged such that each of said projections displaces
 - 6 said vessel in a first direction perpendicular to the path at the projection's
 - 7 location of projection, and such that each of said troughs displaces said vessel
 - 8 in a direction perpendicular to the path at the tough's location, and
 - 9 substantially opposite to the direction that projections adjacent to the trough
 - 10 displace said vessel.

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1 27 (New). The vessel agitator of claim 26 wherein the spacing differs between
2 different adjacent ones of said projection locations.

1 28 (New). The vessel agitator of claim 26 wherein the spacing differs between
2 different adjacent ones of said trough locations.

1 29 (New). The vessel agitator of claim 26 wherein the spacing is the same
2 between different adjacent ones of said projection locations, such that the
3 vessel is agitated in a periodic manner while being conveyed.

1 30 (New). The vessel agitator of claim 25, wherein said vessel conveyor
2 comprises a first rotatable wheel, a second rotatable wheel, and an endless belt
3 engaged with said first rotatable wheel and second rotatable wheel, wherein
4 said vessel holders are attached to said endless belt.